

What's New in the MPDC

DECEMBER 16, 2002

CHIEF RAMSEY EXPLAINS POLICE USE OF CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION DURING COUNCIL HEARING

The MPDC does not currently operate any CCTV cameras in DC neighborhoods. The proposed legislation would authorize a small number of pilot projects to test the effectiveness of CCTV in neighborhood settings. View the proposed legislation at:

www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us/lims/getleg1.asp

Chief Ramsey this week told members of the DC Council that the MPDC is committed to protecting personal privacy in its use limited use of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) on public space in DC. Ramsey expressed overall support for legislation being considered by the Council's Committee on the Judiciary that would regulate, by statute, the MPDC's use of CCTV and ensure privacy protections. Last month, the Council passed regulations on the use of CCTV, and the MPDC is publishing a new internal General Order that implements the regu-

lations. The Chief pointed out that these new policies, as well as the proposed legislation, meet the standards of the American Bar Association for criminal justice video surveillance. Ramsey reminded the Committee that the MPDC does not operate round-the-clock video surveillance, but rather uses its limited network of 14 cameras in downtown DC only during major events, emergencies or heightened threats of terrorism. During these situations, CCTV is helping the police be more effective at monitoring critical areas while keeping police officers on their regular neighborhood patrols. Ramsey said the Department is using both internal procedures and technology itself to help safeguard the privacy of DC residents, workers and visitors when the CCTV system is activated. To read Chief Ramsey's entire statement to the Committee, click on:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

MPDC GRADUATES 21 NEW OFFICERS

Chief Ramsey administered the oath of office to the 21 newest members of the MPDC during graduation ceremonies Friday at the US Mint Police Headquarters in Northwest DC. The 21 officers, members of Recruit Class 2002-3, completed approximately 24 weeks of academy training prior to Friday's graduation ceremonies, and they will spend the next 18 months on a standard probationary review period. In his remarks to the new officers, the Chief asked them, in counting their blessings this holiday season, to remember the blessing of freedom and to recognize the unique role that police officers play in safeguarding freedom. "No one works harder, day in and day out, to protect our democratic rights and freedoms than the men and women of law enforcement. And nowhere is this unique role of the police more obvious – and, quite frankly, more crucial – than right here in our Nation's Capital," Ramsey said. The 21 new officers will be temporarily detailed to the MPDC Evidence Control Branch to assist with a short-term project. In approximately one month, the officers will assume their new neighborhood patrol assignments in the police districts.

For information on joining the MPDC, go to:
mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtml

DILIGENT INVESTIGATION OF CHILD ABUSE CASE EARNS "OFFICER OF THE MONTH" HONOR FOR DETECTIVE GRIER

Recently, Detective Lowell Grier of the Youth and Preventive Services Division was assigned to investigate a physical child abuse case at Prince George's Hospital Center. As part of the investigation, Grier interviewed a witness and the abused child, a 7-year-old girl. Using sensitive interviewing techniques, the detective learned from the victim that her mother had beaten her with a plastic bat, a hanger and her hands, and had kicked her for "acting up in school." The victim had multiple bruises and swelling on various parts of her body. After confirming the victim's statement, Grier immediately obtained warrants for the arrest of the mother and a search of the location of the crime. In executing the warrants, Grier and other members of the Division found 100 grams of crack cocaine, multiple clear zip lock bags, a cell phone, digital scale and a P226 Sig Saur Pistol with 13 cartridges of 9mm ammunition. The mother was charged with First Degree Cruelty to a Child, Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine and Unlawful Possession of a Pistol. A male companion was also arrested and charged with drug and gun offenses. For his diligence and sensitivity in investigating a serious case of child abuse – leading to two arrests and the seizure of both drugs and a gun – Detective Lowell Grier was honored as the Departmental Officer of the Month during the December CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) awards ceremony, hosted by the Helix, 1430 Rhode Island Avenue, NW. Read more about the commendable actions of all 19 of this month's award winners at:

The MPDC provides various ways for the public to contact the police. In addition to 9-1-1 for emergencies, the MPDC operates the 3-1-1 police non-emergency number plus a variety of hotlines. For more information, click on:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/phone/phone.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2002/12.shtm

MPDC JOINS WITH OTHER SAFETY GROUPS TO TARGET DRUNK DRIVING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The MPDC is teaming up the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) and other public safety groups this holiday season to combat drunk driving. As part of the multi-jurisdictional Checkpoint Strikeforce program, the MPDC will be conducting at least weekly sobriety checkpoints in different parts of the District through the remainder of December. These checkpoints generally occur on weekend nights, when drunk driving is at its highest. In addition, the MPDC is once again promoting WRAP's Holiday SoberRide program, which runs from December 13, 2002, through January 2, 2003. Under the program, individuals who have had too much to drink can receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$50 fare) by calling 1-800-200-TAXI. For more details on SoberRide, click on:

Learn more about DC's tough drunk driving laws at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/duihome.shtm

www.soberride.com/programs_adult1.html

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
MPDC.DC.GOV